

Pre-Reading Discussion: How do you usually pay for health care? Are you or your family members enrolled in a health insurance plan?

## Reading Passage Section 17: Paying For Health Services

To make good health decisions, you need to know how to talk with health professionals about paying for your health care.

When you visit a health professional, bring your **health insurance** card or your **government health program** card. If you don't have insurance or are not in a government program, talk to your health professional about a payment plan. At the end of your visit, doctors and dentists usually expect payment from you, your insurance company, or a government program. You need to give your health professionals information about the insurance plans you have or the government programs you are in.



When you call or visit health professionals, they will also ask you about paying for services. You need to be able to answer these questions:

- “How will you pay for your visit?”
- “Do you have health insurance?”
- “Are you in a government health program such as Medicaid, KidCare, or Medicare?”

It is important for you and your family to get the health care you need. Health professionals want to help you and answer your questions.